



Manual of Policy and Procedures

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I. NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

As a recipient of federal funds, each member College of the Vermont State Colleges (collectively “the VSC”) is required to comply with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments Act of 1972 (“Title IX”). In accordance with Title IX, as well as applicable state and federal law, the VSC prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, admission, and employment. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment, as defined in VSC Policy 311, *Non-Discrimination and Prevention of Harassment and Related Unprofessional Conduct*. Prohibited sex discrimination also includes sexual misconduct as defined in this policy.

Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to VSC’s Title IX Coordinators or to the United States Department of Education for the Office of Civil Rights. Contact information for the Title IX Coordinators and the Office of Civil Rights is located in Appendix A to the *Chancellor’s Procedures for Implementation of Policy 311-A: Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking*.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The VSC is committed to maintaining an educational and working environment free from all forms of sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct. The VSC is also committed to maintaining an educational and working environment free from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Such misconduct will not be tolerated. These acts not only violate a person’s feelings of trust and safety but can also substantially interfere with a person’s education or employment.

III. POLICY SUMMARY

It is the policy of the VSC that, upon learning that an act of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking has occurred, prompt and appropriate remedial action reasonably calculated to stop the misconduct shall be taken. Disciplinary sanctions for any member of the VSC community engaging in conduct prohibited under this policy includes the suspension or dismissal/expulsion of students, the suspension or termination of employment or other appropriate disciplinary action such as warnings, reprimands and educational sanctions, as well as possible referral for criminal investigation and prosecution under Vermont law.

Reporting: The VSC encourages, and in the case of its employees requires, the prompt and accurate reporting of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This allows the VSC to respond quickly to allegations and offer support to individuals who may have been subjected to these forms of misconduct. The VSC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of victims, wherever possible, and will work closely with individuals seeking confidential assistance regarding misconduct under this policy. Certain professionals are permitted by law to offer confidentiality. Those who do not have the privilege of offering confidentiality are expected to handle reports discreetly to the extent permitted or required under the law and VSC policy. All allegations will be investigated promptly and thoroughly, and both the accuser and the accused will be afforded equal rights during the investigatory and adjudicatory process.

Prevention and Education: It is the collective responsibility of all members of the VSC community to foster a safe and secure campus environment. In an effort to promote this environment and prevent acts of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking from occurring, the VSC provides ongoing prevention and awareness programs. Incoming students and employees are expected to participate, and other members of the VSC community are encouraged to participate, in these programs.

Retaliation: Retaliation against any person for reporting, supporting a victim, or providing information in connection with a complaint of misconduct under this policy is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion/dismissal or termination of employment. Retaliation may be found whether or not the underlying complaint is ultimately found to have merit. A complaint of retaliation should be reported, and will be investigated and adjudicated, using the procedures implementing this policy.

False Information: Providing false information in connection with a complaint of misconduct under this policy or intentionally misleading officials in the investigation or resolution of such a

complaint is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion/ dismissal or termination of employment.

Academic Freedom: This policy shall not be construed or applied to restrict academic freedom at the VSC, nor shall it be construed to restrict constitutionally protected expression, even though such expression may be offensive, unpleasant or even hateful.

Interpretation: This policy is to be read consistent with federal and state law. If there is any conflict between this policy and federal or state law, this Policy is to be interpreted consistent with federal or state law.

IV. SCOPE OF COVERAGE

Who: This policy applies to all members of the VSC community, including students, employees, and other third parties who come on to campus (such as parents, visitors, independent contractors, and vendors), who are involved in an incident of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (including those who witness an incident or report an incident on behalf of another). It covers misconduct between individuals in different types of relationships. These include, but are not limited to, student to student, employee to employee, faculty member to faculty member, visitor/contracted employee to employee/student, faculty member to student, employee to student, supervisor to subordinate, coach to student athlete, and student to employee/faculty member. Misconduct under this policy may be acts committed by an individual or collective actions committed by members of a group or organization. These acts may be committed against an individual or against a group or organization. These acts may be committed by a stranger, an acquaintance, or someone with whom the victim has a social, romantic, or intimate relationship. These acts may be committed by or against any individual, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

What: This policy prohibits sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as defined herein, in the VSC's educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs and activities, as well as in the employment setting. These terms are further defined in the Definitions section below. Sexual harassment is also prohibited by the VSC, and is addressed separately in VSC Policy 311, *Non-Discrimination and Prevention of Harassment and Related Unprofessional Conduct*.

Where: This policy covers conduct that takes place on VSC campuses and in any building or property owned or controlled by the VSC and used in direct support of, or in a manner related to, the VSC's mission. This includes public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from VSC property, as well as any building or property not within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of VSC that supports or relates to VSC's educational

purposes and is used frequently by students. This policy also covers conduct that takes place off-campus, or through the use of online, electronic or digital technologies, that may have a nexus to any VSC education program or activity, for example by creating a hostile environment on campus or representing a threat to the safety of members of the VSC community or to the continuance of normal VSC operations.

When: The length of time between an incident and making a report of misconduct under this policy will not affect the willingness of the VSC to investigate the allegations or provide support and other services to the individual reporting the conduct. However, a prompt report will enhance the VSC's ability to conduct an investigation and the effectiveness of any criminal or VSC adjudicatory process. Therefore, the VSC strongly encourages individuals to report incidents of misconduct immediately following their occurrence.

V. RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

Written information on existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available for individuals who report that they have been subjected to misconduct in violation of this policy, both on campus and in the local community, is available from the Office of the Chancellor and each of the member Colleges. The VSC will provide written notification about options for, available assistance in, and how to request changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations or other protective measures. The VSC will make such accommodations or provide such protective measures if requested and if they are reasonably available, regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to campus police or local law enforcement. Requests for accommodations should be made to the Title IX Coordinator.

VI. CLERY ACT

The VSC is committed to complying with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act").¹ Employees who are designated as Campus Security Authorities are required to report certain sex offenses and other crimes to the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of compliance with the Clery Act. The Offices of Public Safety for the member Colleges shall include any reported incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, along with other crimes, in the daily crime log, and the annual security report. Public Safety will issue a timely warning when a Clery Act crime, which is considered to pose a serious or continuing threat to the VSC community, is reported to Public Safety or to local law enforcement (if local law enforcement makes Public Safety aware

¹ The Clery Act requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and report information about crime on or near their campuses.

of such reports). No personally identifying information will be included in the public reports required by the Clery Act.

VII. CONFIDENTIALITY

The VSC is committed to maintaining the privacy of all individuals involved in a report of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to the extent it reasonably can do so. While the VSC encourages individuals to report incidents of misconduct in violation of this policy, the VSC understands that it can be difficult for individuals to come forward to report such misconduct. The following resources have differing obligations to maintain confidentiality and to report incidents.

A. Confidential Off-Campus Resources

Crisis services and off-campus healthcare providers will generally maintain confidentiality, to the extent permissible under applicable law.

B. Counselors and Health Services Professionals

The VSC's licensed professional counselors and health services staff respect and protect confidential communications from students and employees to the extent permissible under applicable law. They may have the responsibility to disclose otherwise-privileged information in the event they perceive an immediate and/or serious threat to any person or property. In addition, medical and mental health professionals are required by law to report any allegation of sexual assault of a person under age 18. These professionals will report incidents, without any identifying information, to the Title IX Coordinator so VSC is aware that an incident of alleged misconduct under this policy has occurred. If the incident is a crime covered by the Clery Act, these professionals will report it, without any identifying information, to the appropriate Office of Public Safety for Clery Act purposes. The non-identifying information to be reported includes the nature, date, time and general location of the incident.

C. Employees

Employees of the VSC, other than those employed by the VSC in their capacity as licensed professional counselors and health services staff, are not able to guarantee confidentiality. General inquiries or questions about policies and procedures do not have to be reported. Employees who learn of an incident of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are required to report this information to the Title IX Coordinator, the Dean of Students, or the President. Employees who are Campus Security Authorities are also required to report certain sex offenses and other crimes to the Department of Public Safety for

the purpose of the VSC's compliance with the Clery Act. All information will be kept securely and, even if an individual does not request confidentiality, the information will be shared on a "need to know" basis only with those assisting in any review, investigation or adjudication of the report, or who otherwise need to know the information to perform the duties of their position. Although not bound by confidentiality, these individuals should be discreet and respect the privacy interests of all individuals involved in the process.

The VSC will strive to protect the privacy interests of individuals to the extent it can while fulfilling its obligations to uphold relevant policies and regulations, to conform to any legal requirements, and to take reasonable steps to promote the safety of members of the VSC community. The VSC has an obligation to investigate complaints of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to take reasonable steps to prevent recurrence of such behavior. Therefore, in some circumstances, the VSC may report an incident of misconduct under this policy to law enforcement or investigate and pursue disciplinary action against the offender, even if an individual requests confidentiality or chooses not to file a complaint. For this reason, absolute or strict confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. The VSC will evaluate requests for confidentiality on a case-by-case basis, within the context of its responsibility to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students, employees and third parties, and to promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of the VSC community.

If an individual filing a report insists that his or her name or other identifiable information not be revealed and the VSC is able to respect that request, the VSC's ability to respond fully to the report may be limited. For example, a person accused of engaging in misconduct under this policy has the right to know the name of the accuser and information regarding the nature of the allegations in order to defend against the allegations in an adjudicatory process. Thus, the VSC may not be able to maintain a request for confidentiality and also adjudicate a complaint. If an individual insists on confidentiality, the VSC may be able to take action to limit the effects of the alleged sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and prevent its recurrence to the extent warranted and practicable.

D. Law Enforcement

If a crime of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking appears to have occurred, the VSC encourages accurate and prompt reporting of these crimes to the Office of Public Safety and/or to state or local law enforcement. Victims subjected to such misconduct have the option to notify law enforcement, to be assisted by VSC officials in notifying law enforcement, or to decline to notify law enforcement. A victim may inform law enforcement of an incident of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking without making a formal criminal complaint. A victim may choose to pursue

a criminal complaint, a complaint through the VSC's disciplinary process, or both simultaneously. A victim who chooses not to notify law enforcement immediately has the option to notify law enforcement at a later time. Completing a forensic exam is important to preserve evidence and does not require the examinee to file a police report. Reports to law enforcement are not confidential.

VIII. DEFINITIONS

A. Clery Act Crimes

The definitions of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking used in this policy are consistent with the Clery Act, as amended effective 2014. In its primary prevention and awareness programs for incoming students and new employees, as well as in its primary prevention and awareness programs for students and employees, the VSC shall include the definitions of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking under the criminal law of Vermont. However, the VSC utilizes its own definitions of these prohibited behaviors, which are consistent with the Clery Act as set forth below, for purposes of this policy and determines responsibility for violations of this policy through its own procedures and standards of proof (*i.e.* by a preponderance of the evidence standard), not through the procedures or standards of proof employed in the criminal justice system.

Dating Violence: "Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim.

(i) The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(ii) For the purposes of this definition—

(A) Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.

(B) Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence."²

Any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting. It is also a violation of VSC policy and is prohibited.

Domestic Violence: "A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed—

(A) By a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;

(B) By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;

² 34 C.F.R. § 668.46(a).

- (C) By a person who is cohabiting with, or has cohabited with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- (D) By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; or
- (E) By any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.”³

Any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting. It is also a violation of VSC policy and is prohibited.

Examples of **domestic violence and dating violence** behaviors or activities directed against a family member, a household member, or a person one is dating or has dated include, but are not limited to: (1) violence or threats of violence (even in the absence of bodily injury); (2) negligent or reckless use of physical force; (3) conduct that may reasonably be expected to exploit or coerce another; (4) restraint; (5) prevention of another's ability to communicate or move freely by the use of threats, intimidation, abuse or physical force; (6) unauthorized entry and, specifically, uninvited threatening presence in another's room or office; and (7) other conduct intended to intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, terrorize, or isolate the other person. Domestic violence and dating violence can be a single act or a pattern of behavior in a relationship. Engaging in such behaviors or activities is a violation of VSC policy and is prohibited.

Sexual Assault: “An offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape as used in the FBI's UCR program[.]”⁴ The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines these offenses as follows:

Rape: “The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.”⁵

Sex Offenses: “Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

A. *Fondling*—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

³ 34 C.F.R. § 668.46(a).

⁴ 34 C.F.R. § 668.46(a).

⁵ Appendix A to Subpart D of 34 C.F.R. Part 668.

B. *Incest*—Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

C. *Statutory Rape*—Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.”⁶

Sexual assault can be committed by any person against another person, regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or past or current relationship status. Sexual assault may occur with or without physical resistance or violence.

Any incident meeting one or more of these definitions is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting. It is also a violation of VSC policy and is prohibited.

Stalking: “(i) Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—

(A) Fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others; or

(B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

(ii) For purposes of this definition—

(A) *Course of conduct* means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person’s property.

(B) *Reasonable person* means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.

(C) *Substantial emotional distress* means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.”⁷

Any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting. It is also a violation of VSC policy and is prohibited.

Examples of **stalking** behaviors or activities, when conducted in connection with the above definition, include, but are not limited to: (1) non-consensual communication, including face-to-face communication, telephone calls, voice messages, e-mails, text messages, written letters, gifts, or any other communications that are unwelcome; (2) use of online, electronic or digital technologies, such as posting pictures or text in chat rooms or on websites, sending unwanted or unsolicited e-mail or talk requests, posting private or public messages on Internet sites, social networks, and/or school bulletin boards, installing spyware on a person’s computer, or using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) or similar technology to monitor a person; (3) pursuing, following, waiting for, or showing up uninvited at or near a residence, workplace, classroom, or

⁶ Appendix A to Subpart D of 34 C.F.R. Part 668.

⁷ 34 C.F.R. § 668.46(a).

other places frequented by the person; (4) surveillance or other types of observation, including staring and voyeurism; (5) trespassing; (6) vandalism; (7) non-consensual touching; (8) direct verbal or physical threats against a person or a person's family member, pet or personal property; (9) gathering information about a person from friends, family, or co-workers; (10) accessing private information through unauthorized means; (11) threats to harm self or others; (12) defamation and/or lying to others about the person; and (13) using a third party or parties to accomplish any of the above. Engaging in such stalking behaviors or activities is a violation of VSC policy and is prohibited.

B. Additional Definitions Applicable to This Policy

Coercion: The act of compelling or forcing someone to act based on pressure, harassment, threats, or intimidation.

Consent: For purposes of this policy, effective consent means words or actions that demonstrate to a reasonable person a knowing and voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. Effective consent cannot be gained by threat, force, coercion or intimidation or by ignoring words or actions that indicate a lack of consent or objection to the activity. Consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity. Consent can be rescinded at any time. It is the responsibility of the person who wants to engage in the sexual activity to ensure that he or she has effective consent from any other person involved. Silence, lack of protest, or lack of resistance are not sufficient standing alone to establish consent. The actions of the individuals involved and the context in which those actions occurred will be considered in determining whether or not there was consent. The existence of a dating relationship or a past sexual relationship between the persons involved is not a sufficient basis to assume consent. Past consent between two individuals does not imply present or future consent to sexual activity.

Consent is not valid when a person is incapable of giving consent: (1) due to the person's use or consumption of drugs or alcohol; (2) when intimidation, threats, physical force, or other actions that are coercive are applied; (3) when a physical or mental condition is present such that the person cannot knowingly or voluntarily give consent; or (4) when a person is under the age of 16.

Alcohol-related incapacity results from a level of alcohol ingestion that is more severe than mere impairment, being under the influence, drunkenness or intoxication. Consumption of alcohol or other drugs alone is insufficient to establish incapacitation. The question of incapacitation is determined on a case-by-case basis using both objective and subjective standards and includes an analysis of the objective behaviors of the person alleging sexual misconduct and whether the accused person knew or reasonably should have known that the person was incapacitated, or if

the accused person played a role in creating the circumstances of incapacity. Whether the accused person knew or reasonably should have known the other person was incapacitated will be assessed in light of all relevant circumstances. Objective physical indications of incapacity include slurred speech, difficulty walking or standing, vomiting, and losing consciousness.

The use of alcohol or other drugs does not make a victim at fault for sexual misconduct. The use of alcohol or other drugs does not minimize or excuse a person's responsibility for committing sexual misconduct. Nor does the use of alcohol or other drugs minimize or excuse a person's responsibility for determining whether another person is capable of giving consent, as described above.

Retaliation: Retaliation against any person for reporting, supporting a victim, or providing information in connection with a complaint of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking includes, but is not limited to: (1) pressuring a person to drop or not support a complaint; (2) encouraging a person to provide false and misleading information; (3) engaging in conduct that may reasonably be perceived to affect adversely that person's educational, living or work environment; (4) threatening, intimidating or coercing the person; or (5) otherwise discriminating against any person for exercising their rights and responsibilities under this policy. Depending on the particular circumstances, retaliation may also be unlawful.

Retaliation as defined here violates VSC policy and is prohibited.

Sexual Misconduct: Any non-consensual act of a sexual nature, which may or may not involve physical contact. Sexual misconduct may vary in severity and includes a range of behaviors and attempted behaviors, including, but not limited to sexual harassment as defined in Policy 311, *Non-Discrimination and Prevention of Harassment and Related Unprofessional Conduct*.⁸ Sexual misconduct includes sexual assault (as defined above) and also includes unwelcome sexual conduct that does not constitute sexual assault but is sexually violating in nature, such as nonconsensual physical contact of a sexual nature including, but not limited to, intentional contact of a sexual nature with the breasts, buttocks, groin, or mouth or contact of a sexual nature with any other body parts.

Sexual misconduct also includes sexually exploitative behavior and attempted sexually exploitative behavior. Examples of sexually exploitative behavior include, but are not limited to: (1) prostituting another person; (2) recording or capturing (through any means) images or audio of another person's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nudity without that person's consent, and/or sharing this material without the other person's consent; (3) viewing or allowing or aiding others to view another person's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nudity without the

⁸ Conduct that violates both Policy 311 and this Policy may be addressed under either policy.

person's consent; and (4) sexual exhibitionism or exposure of one's genitalia in the presence of others without their consent.

Exception: The VSC's prohibition of sexual exploitation is not intended to prohibit the use of sexually-explicit materials that are reasonably related to the VSC's academic mission. Specifically, this section is not intended to proscribe or inhibit the use of sexually-explicit materials, in or out of the classroom, when in the judgment of a reasonable person the use of such materials appropriately promotes genuine discourse, inquiry and learning.

Sexual misconduct as defined here violates VSC policy and is prohibited.

IX. PROCEDURES

The Chancellor shall establish and periodically update the procedures for handling complaints of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to ensure that the process is prompt, fair and impartial. Officials who are responsible for investigating and adjudicating complaints under this policy shall receive annual training relevant to their specific duties and responsibilities on how to conduct investigations involving sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and the adjudication process so as to protect the safety of victims and promote accountability. The procedures shall identify the persons responsible for overseeing the development of prevention and awareness programs at each of the member Colleges and the Office of the Chancellor. The procedures shall outline the steps available to victims of misconduct prohibited by this policy and describe the procedures for reporting, investigating and adjudicating incidents of such misconduct. The procedures shall contain the definitions of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and consent under the criminal laws of Vermont.

The standard of proof applicable in investigating and adjudicating complaints under this policy shall be "by a preponderance of the evidence," meaning that it is more likely than not (*i.e.* there is more than a 50% likelihood) that the alleged actions or behavior in violation of the policy occurred.

The procedures established by the Chancellor may be modified as necessary to comply with federal and state law so that the VSC may respond promptly and effectively to incidents of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

X. DUTY TO COOPERATE

All students and employees have a duty to cooperate in investigations undertaken pursuant to this policy and are expected to provide complete, accurate, and truthful information. They may be

asked to sign statements or other documents memorializing the information they provide, and may be asked to keep the substance of any interview confidential. Failure to cooperate fully with the investigation may subject the individual to the full range of disciplinary actions, up to and including expulsion or termination.

All actions taken to investigate and resolve complaints pursuant to this policy shall be conducted with as much privacy, discretion and confidentiality as possible without compromising the thoroughness and fairness of the investigation. All persons involved are expected to treat the situation under investigation with respect. To conduct a thorough investigation, the investigator(s) may discuss the complaint with witnesses and those persons involved in or affected by the complaint, and those persons necessary to assist in the investigation or to implement appropriate disciplinary actions. Nothing herein shall be deemed to limit the procedural rights of unionized and other employees with regard to such investigations.

XI. SANCTIONS

Violation of the prohibitions set forth in this policy is grounds for discipline up to and including the dismissal/expulsion of students or the termination of employees. Generally, the range of sanctions for **students** includes verbal and written warnings, written reprimands, counseling, loss of privileges, probationary status, removal from College housing, suspension, dismissal/expulsion, revocation of degree, and/or withholding of transcript or other action determined to be appropriate under the circumstances. Generally, the range of sanctions for **employees** includes verbal warnings, written warnings, written reprimands, probation, suspension, termination of employment, non-renewal of a contract, or other action determined to be appropriate under the circumstances.

The VSC may also impose certain non-disciplinary remedial actions where appropriate, such as required counseling or training for the respondent and/or a group of students or employees, to stop the misconduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. Additional non-disciplinary outcomes, such as extending and modifying no contact orders, room changes, class changes, work schedule changes, building restrictions, and extracurricular activity restrictions may also be imposed, regardless of the finding, to maintain an environment free from sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and stalking.

XII. OTHER POLICY VIOLATIONS

The VSC's primary goals in responding to complaints of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are to promote the safety of the VSC community, to address the misconduct, and to prevent it from recurring. A person (whether a victim of misconduct under this policy or someone with knowledge of such an incident) should not be

deterred from reporting a violation of this policy because alcohol, drugs, or other violations of VSC's policies were involved in the incident. VSC officials may, in their discretion and on a case-by-case basis, decide not to pursue relatively minor drug, alcohol or other policy violations related to incidents of misconduct under this policy or, if they do pursue such violations, to handle them separately from complaints brought under this policy.

Misconduct that does not meet the definition of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may violate other VSC policies, student handbooks, codes of conduct, or collective bargaining agreements and, if so, shall be handled as set forth in such other documents. Where related misconduct involves a combination of elements of alleged sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and other types of sexual misconduct, it will be handled under the procedures adopted in connection with this policy.

Signed by:



Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor

Relevant Legal Authorities

- 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*, Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972
- 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Title IX regulations)
- 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f), the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, Section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (as amended)
- 34 C.F.R. § 668.46 (Clery Act regulations)
- 42 U.S.C. § 13925(a)(20), Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (as amended) (definition of personally identifying information)
- 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
- 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (FERPA regulations)
- 13 V.S.A. § 3251(3), Sexual Assault - Definitions
- 13 V.S.A. § 3252, Sexual Assault
- 13 V.S.A. § 1042, Domestic Assault
- 15 V.S.A. § 1101(2), Domestic Relations, Abuse Prevention - Definitions
- 13 V.S.A. § 1061, Stalking – Definitions
- 16 V.S.A. § 178, Harassment and Hazing Prevention Policies; Postsecondary Schools
- 16 V.S.A. § 14, Harassment; Notice and Response
- 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(26), Classifications and Definitions, Harassment

Additional Resources

- United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, *Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence*, issued April 29, 2014 (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>)
- United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, *Dear Colleague Letter*, issued April 4, 2011 (<http://www.title9.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/colleague-201104.pdf>)
- United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, *Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties*, issued January 19, 2001 (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/shguide.html>)
- United States Department of Education's *Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting* (2011) (<http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/handbook.pdf>)
- White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, *Not Alone*, issued April 29, 2014 (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/report_0.pdf)

Cross References

- VSC Policy 311, *Non-Discrimination and Prevention of Harassment and Related Unprofessional Conduct*
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**CHANCELLOR’S PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
POLICY 311-A: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND STALKING**

I. INTRODUCTION

The following procedures outline the steps available to individuals who may have been subjected to sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as defined in Policy 311-A, and describe the institutional procedures for handling complaints involving such misconduct. These procedures incorporate by reference the terms and conditions of Policy 311-A, *Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking*, and are to be read consistently with the requirements of any state or federal laws and regulations, any collective bargaining agreement, and any personnel handbook governing the rights and responsibilities of the Vermont State Colleges (“VSC”), its member Colleges and its employees. These procedures may be modified as necessary to comply with federal and state law and to respond promptly and effectively to incidents of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

II. DEFINITIONS

The definitions set forth in Policy 311-A are incorporated here by reference. The following additional definitions apply to these procedures.

“Complainant” means a person who files a complaint alleging that she or he has been subjected to conduct that violates Policy 311-A.

“Dean of Students” means the Dean of Students at a member College or any person carrying out that function, however named.

“Designated contact person” means those persons designated by the Office of the Chancellor and the member Colleges to advise individuals with questions about Policy 311-A, to provide information about available resources for victims, to assist in the reporting of an incident that may constitute a violation of Policy 311-A, and to explain the process for filing a complaint. The names of the designated contact persons at each institution shall be published online and made available at the office of the Dean of Students and the office of the Human Resources Administrator for each member College, as well as the office of the Director of Human Resources at the Office of the Chancellor.

“Employee” means all VSC employees, including student employees, such as Resident Advisors and work study students (within their capacity as work study students).

“**Parties**” means the complainant and the respondent.

“**Respondent**” means a person against whom a complaint has been filed alleging that the person’s conduct violated Policy 311-A.

“**Responsible College Administrator**” or “**RCA**” means (1) the President or Dean of Students from the member College where the violation allegedly occurred; (2) the Director of Human Resources at the Office of the Chancellor, if the violation allegedly occurred at the Office of the Chancellor; (3) the Chancellor, if the VSC Director of Human Resources or a President allegedly violated Policy 311-A; (4) the Chair of the Board of Trustees, if the Chancellor allegedly violated Policy 311-A; and (5) any designee of the aforementioned.

“**Third Parties**” means individuals who are neither students nor employees, such as visitors, parents, vendors, and independent contractors.

“**Title IX Coordinator**” means the administrator at each College selected by the President, and the person at the Office of the Chancellor selected by the Chancellor, to serve as Title IX Coordinator for the purposes of coordinating the VSC’s efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX, as well as any designee of the Title IX Coordinator. For the purposes of Policy 311-A, the Title IX Coordinator’s responsibilities include overseeing the process for handling all Title IX complaints and identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems that arise during the review of such complaints. The Title IX Coordinator prepares annual reports on the nature and outcome of complaints at the institution, which are to be used for satisfying any VSC or member College legal reporting requirements and for planning and assessing progress toward the goal of preventing sexual misconduct. Contact information for the Title IX Coordinators is located in **Appendix A** to these Procedures.

“**VSC**” and “**Colleges**” refer collectively to the Vermont State Colleges and its individual member institutions: Castleton University, Community College of Vermont, Johnson State College, Lyndon State College, and Vermont Technical College, however named or configured.

III. CONTACT INFORMATION

Any person (including students, employees, and third parties) who believes that she or he is the victim of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or who has information about such an incident, may seek advice or information from the Title IX Coordinator, designated contact persons, or Responsible College Administrators. Victims of conduct prohibited by Policy 311-A have the option to notify law enforcement, to be assisted by VSC officials in notifying law enforcement, or to decline to notify law enforcement.

The VSC encourages all members of the VSC community affected by sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to seek immediate assistance. Seeking prompt assistance is important to ensure a person's physical safety, to obtain medical care or other support, and to preserve evidence for any legal or disciplinary action. Preservation of evidence is important even if an individual initially chooses not to pursue a complaint, criminal charge or protective order, because the individual may decide to do so at a later time.

Contact information for: (1) trained campus and community advocates and counselors who can provide an immediate confidential response in a crisis situation; and (2) Public Safety, state and local law enforcement, and other first responders, shall be published on VSC websites and made available at the offices of the Chancellor, President, Dean of Students, Human Resources, Public Safety, and counseling/student health center.

IV. SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

(A) Court Orders

The VSC is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals who are being or who may have been subjected to sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Such individuals may have the right to obtain orders of protection, restraining orders and/or relief from abuse orders from Vermont courts. Upon request, the VSC will assist individuals in making contact with law enforcement authorities and other external resources to seek such orders. This assistance is available regardless of whether an individual chooses to file a complaint with the VSC.

(B) Protective Measures

Sometimes it may be necessary to take steps to protect the rights and interests of an individual before or during an investigation so that the individual feels safe in his or her work or educational environment. Upon request, the Title IX Coordinator, with the assistance of other VSC officials as appropriate, will provide victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking with changes to academic, transportation, working and/or living situations or other protective measures, if reasonably available. Individuals do not have to file a formal complaint, participate in a disciplinary process, or file a criminal complaint in order to request such help from the VSC. The VSC will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality does not impair the VSC's ability to provide the accommodations or protective measures. Examples of possible measures that may be taken prior to the final outcome of any disciplinary process or criminal charge, include: changing academic or work schedules; permitting students to withdraw from or retake a class without penalty; facilitating access to

academic support services; changing residence hall assignments; providing written notification about existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available for victims at the member College and/or in the community; issuing no contact and no trespassing orders; and increasing security. Factors that may be considered include, but are not limited to, the following: the specific need expressed by the requesting individual; the age and position of the individuals involved; the severity or pervasiveness of the alleged conduct; any continuing effects on the requesting individual; whether the individuals involved share the same residence hall, dining hall, classes, transportation or job location; and, whether any judicial measures, such as court orders, have been taken to protect the requesting individual.

Any measure taken should seek to minimize the burden on the victim while respecting the due process rights of the person accused of engaging in the prohibited conduct. The imposition of any of these measures does not indicate a presumption of guilt, nor does it preclude subsequent disciplinary action. A no contact order in and of itself does not constitute discipline and will not appear in an employee's personnel file or on a student's disciplinary record, but refusal to comply with a no contact order (or other protective measure) is a violation of policy and may result in disciplinary action. A no trespass notice prohibits the presence of an individual in a designated area. Such notices are legally enforceable and, if violated, may lead to arrest.

(C) Interim Suspension

If the VSC has reasonable cause to believe that a student accused of violating Policy 311-A poses a substantial threat to him or herself, the alleged victim, other people, property, or the continuance of normal VSC operations, the VSC may suspend the student for an interim period, pending the outcome of the disciplinary process. Careful consideration should be given to alternative interim measures, such as changing class schedules, changing residence hall assignments, and issuing no contact orders or building access restrictions, before imposing an interim suspension.

An interim suspension may not be imposed without prior notice to the student (either written or oral) of the contemplated suspension and the factual basis for it. The student shall have forty-eight hours in which to submit a letter to or appear personally before the Dean of Students (or the Dean's designee) to contest the interim suspension. The Dean of Students (or the Dean's designee) shall consider: (1) the reliability of the identification of the student; and (2) whether the alleged conduct, if true, based on the surrounding circumstances, reasonably indicates that the continued presence of the student on campus poses a substantial threat to him or herself, the alleged victim, other people, property, or the normal operations of the VSC. The Dean (or the Dean's designee) may require the student to meet certain conditions in lieu of an interim suspension. Unless the Dean of Students (or the Dean's designee) determines that it would be

unreasonably difficult or dangerous to delay the interim suspension, the student shall have the opportunity to be heard in person or in writing before the interim suspension takes effect.

V. REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING

(A) Report by Victims or Others with Information

Any person (including students, employees, and third parties) who believes that she or he is the victim of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or who has information about an alleged incident, may report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, a designated contact person, a Responsible College Administrator, Public Safety, or Human Resources.

Individuals with a disability may request accommodations to ensure their full and equal participation in reporting incidents of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as well as the investigatory and adjudicatory process under this policy. Requests for accommodations in the Policy 311-A process are determined on an individual basis by the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator as appropriate.

(B) Reporting Obligations of Employees

Except in circumstances where an employee is acting within the scope of his or her role as a specifically-designated confidential resource, employees who are aware or have been made aware of an incident of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are required to report this information to one of the following: the Title IX Coordinator, the Dean of Students, the President, or, if the employee works in the Office of the Chancellor, to the Director of Human Resources.

Employees are not expected to and should not investigate alleged incidents, unless this is part of their job duties or they are assigned to investigate a complaint made under this policy. The report should include all known relevant details, including a description of the alleged incident, the names of anyone involved or present, the date, time, and location.

Failure by an employee to report a complaint or alleged acts of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is considered a violation of policy and may result in disciplinary action. The procedures and mutual obligations of the VSC and the employee under any collective bargaining agreement, or the VSC personnel handbook, will apply to any such disciplinary action.

(C) Reporting to Law Enforcement Agencies

The VSC encourages accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes to Public Safety and/or to state and local enforcement, when the victim of a crime elects to make a report, as well as when the victim is unable to make a report due to physical or mental incapacity. Definitions of consent and the crimes of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking under Vermont law are set forth in **Exhibit B** to these Procedures. Contact information for Vermont's Special Investigation Units, by county, is set forth in **Exhibit C** to these Procedures. Additional contact information for local law enforcement agencies shall be published on VSC websites and made available at the offices of the Chancellor, President, the Dean of Students, Human Resources, Public Safety, and any campus counseling/health center.

The VSC will not wait for the conclusion of a criminal investigation or proceeding to process complaints or begin its own investigation under this policy. The VSC will, however, comply with valid requests by law enforcement for cooperation in a criminal investigation and may, if so requested, temporarily delay an investigation while law enforcement initially gathers evidence.

In certain circumstances, the VSC may need to report an incident of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to law enforcement, such as where the incident warrants undertaking safety and security measures for the protection of an individual and/or the VSC community, including those situations where there is clear and imminent danger and/or where a weapon may be involved. The alleged victim may choose whether to assist law enforcement.

VI. FILING A FORMAL SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING COMPLAINT¹

(A) Complaints against Students

A formal complaint of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by a student shall be filed with the Title IX Coordinator.

¹ Individuals who believe that they have been subjected to unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature and/or sexual harassment may seek informal resolution of the issues, without filing a formal complaint, as set forth in the *Chancellor's Procedures for Implementation of Policy 311: Non-Discrimination and Prevention for Harassment and Related Unprofessional Conduct*. Informal resolution will not be used in cases involving sexual assault.

(B) Complaints against Employees

A formal complaint of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by an employee shall be filed with the Title IX Coordinator. A complaint against a Title IX Coordinator shall be filed with the President of the College, who will designate an alternate contact person. A complaint against a President shall be filed with the Chancellor, who will designate an alternate contact person. A formal complaint against an employee in the Office of the Chancellor shall be filed with the VSC Director of Human Resources (or the Director's designee). A complaint against the VSC Director of Human Resources shall be filed with the Chancellor, who will designate an alternate contact person. A formal complaint of such misconduct against the Chancellor shall be filed with the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Respondents who are represented by a union may exercise their rights, pursuant to federal and state labor law, through this adjudicatory process, including, but not limited to, the right to have a union representative present for any interview or meeting.

(C) Complaints against Third Parties

A formal complaint of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a third party shall be filed with the Title IX Coordinator. The VSC's ability to take disciplinary action against a third party may be limited, depending on the particular circumstances, but may include banning the third party from campus.

(D) Complaints brought by the VSC

The VSC may investigate and pursue disciplinary action against a respondent whose conduct allegedly violates Policy 311-A even if the alleged victim chooses not to file a formal complaint. If this occurs, the VSC will follow the procedures set forth below to the extent reasonably possible.

(E) Written Complaint

After an initial discussion, the complainant will be asked to prepare a written statement describing the alleged conduct. The statement should include information such as the date and time of the alleged misconduct, the name of the respondent, the circumstances surrounding the alleged conduct, and the identity of any person who may have knowledge or information about the conduct. The complainant may designate a previously-prepared statement (such as an e-mail, an affidavit, or a statement provided to law enforcement) as the complainant's statement. The Title IX Coordinator may draft a statement, based upon the complainant's verbal description of the alleged conduct, for the complainant's review and approval. Complainant's statement may be

provided to respondent, at the investigators' discretion, during the course of the investigation but will be provided, in any event, no later than the release of the investigators' report to the parties.

(F) Preliminary Evaluation

The Title IX Coordinator shall review the complainant's written statement to determine whether the allegations, if true, would constitute a violation of Policy 311-A. If the alleged actions of the respondent would be a violation of the policy, the procedures set forth below will be followed. If the alleged actions of the respondent would not be a violation of the policy, the Title IX Coordinator will consider whether the alleged actions would otherwise subject the respondent to discipline. If so, the procedures applicable for handling such other alleged offenses will be followed. The Title IX Coordinator shall take no further action, other than to inform the complainant, if the alleged actions of the respondent as set forth in the written statement, if true, would not constitute an offense subject to discipline.

(G) Notice to Respondent

If the complaint is not dismissed following the preliminary evaluation, the Title IX Coordinator shall inform the respondent, in writing, of the alleged policy violation(s) and provide a summary of complainant's allegations. The respondent shall also be given a physical copy of and/or the website links to Policy 311-A and its implementing procedures, as well as information on existing counseling, health and mental health services available on campus and/or in the community. The respondent shall be notified that taking any retaliatory action (directly or through others) against any person involved in the investigation is prohibited and will be considered a separate violation of VSC policy. Copies of the written notice to the respondent shall be provided to the complainant, the Title IX Coordinator, the investigators, and VSC's general counsel.

(H) Acceptance of Responsibility

If at any point during the investigation, a respondent chooses to accept responsibility under this policy, the RCA may issue a determination and impose disciplinary sanctions upon the respondent in accordance with Article VIII below. The RCA may also take other action that is reasonably calculated to address the conduct and prevent its recurrence, including further investigation of the allegations. By accepting responsibility and the imposition of any assigned disciplinary sanction, the respondent waives the right to appeal.

VII. THE INVESTIGATION

(A) Appointing Investigators

The Title IX Coordinator shall appoint two impartial, qualified, and trained investigators to investigate complaints alleging violations of this policy. Investigators may be employees of the member College, other VSC employees, or outside investigators.

The complainant or respondent may raise an objection to the selection of a particular investigator if either believes there is a conflict of interest or demonstrable or perceived bias on the part of the investigator. Any such objections must be raised upon receipt of notice of the appointments. The RCA shall have final authority in the appointment of investigators.

(B) Conducting the investigation

The investigators shall conduct an investigation that is prompt, fair, impartial, and appropriate under the circumstances. The nature and scope of the investigation is within the discretion of the investigators.

(1) Witnesses and Evidence

The investigators will interview the complainant, respondent, and any witnesses separately. The complainant and respondent will be asked to identify: (a) relevant evidence they would like the investigators to review; (b) witnesses they would like the investigators to interview; and (c) questions they would like the investigators to ask the witnesses. The investigators have discretion as to what evidence to pursue, which witnesses to interview, and which questions to ask, depending on their determination of what they reasonably believe to be related to the issues in dispute. The investigators may, in their discretion, share the written statements of the parties and witnesses with the complainant and/or respondent at any time during the course of the investigation but, in any event, shall share such statements no later than the release of the investigators' report to the parties.

(2) Cross-Examination

The parties are not permitted to question or cross-examine each other during the course of the investigation but, if they wish, may provide a list of questions they would like the investigators to ask the other party. The investigators have discretion as to whether to ask such questions precisely as posed, or at all, depending on their determination of what questions would reasonably lead to the discovery of relevant information. Questions about the complainant's sexual history with anyone other than the respondent shall not be permitted.

(3) Advisors

Complainants and respondents are entitled to the same opportunity to have an advisor of their choosing present at any interview or meeting they have with investigators. Any such advisor may advise the complainant or respondent privately, but cannot act as a speaking advocate. An investigator may terminate the meeting and proceed with the investigation based on otherwise-available information if advisors refuse to comply with these requirements. Because a Policy 311-A investigation may lead to discipline, a respondent who is a bargaining unit member has the right to be accompanied to the interview by a union representative.

(4) Additional Policy Violations

If, in the course of the investigation, other allegations against the respondent surface which could result in discipline under this policy, other VSC policies, policies of the member College, any collective bargaining agreement, or personnel handbook, the investigators will inform the respondent, in writing, of such allegations and the respondent will be given an opportunity to respond to the additional allegations before the investigators submit their report. If the alleged additional violations are unrelated to the allegations contained in the complaint, the VSC may choose to address these separately and not as part of the ongoing investigatory and adjudicatory process.

(C) Investigators' Report

At the conclusion of their investigation, the investigators shall prepare a report setting forth their findings and recommendations.

(1) Standard

The findings and recommendations will be based on the preponderance of evidence standard, *i.e.*, whether it is more likely than not that the policy was violated.

(2) The Report

The report shall include:

- A statement summarizing the allegations;
- A procedural summary, including the date the investigators were appointed, the names of the witnesses and dates when each was interviewed, and a list of the documents reviewed;
- Applicable definitions, including the definition of the alleged violation(s) of Policy 311-A;

- The investigators' findings of fact, including how they weighted the evidence and reconciled any significant discrepancies in the statements of witnesses;
- The conclusion, in which the investigators explain how the findings of fact are applied to the standards set forth in Policy 311-A to reach a determination as to whether the policy was violated; and
- Any general recommendations for consideration by the RCA, such as trainings, education, or other actions that may reduce/eliminate prohibited misconduct in the future. Unless specifically requested to do so by the RCA, investigators will not make recommendations about possible sanctions.

(3) Time-frame

The investigation will be conducted as promptly as possible, without compromising thoroughness. The investigators will endeavor to prepare their report within forty-five (45) calendar days of submission of the written complaint. Where extenuating circumstances are present and documented by the investigators, this time-frame may be extended with written notification to the parties.

(4) Parties' Response

The investigators shall send the report to the complainant and respondent, with a copy to the Title IX Coordinator. Certain identifying information may be redacted from the materials provided to the complainant and respondent, if necessary, to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g. The parties will each have the opportunity to review the investigators' report and to provide a written response to the report to the investigators within seven (7) calendar days.

(5) Submission of Report

The final report, along with copies of any written responses, will be sent to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will forward the final report (plus any responses, supplements, and attachments) to the RCA, with copies to the VSC's general counsel, the complainant, and the respondent.

VIII. DETERMINATION AND SANCTIONS

(A) Student Respondents

(1) Determination

The RCA is not bound by the investigators' report and may accept or reject the investigators' recommended conclusion in whole or in part, or may request additional relevant information before making a final determination. The complainant and respondent may request to meet individually with the RCA before a final determination is made and may be accompanied by an advisor of their choosing. The advisor may confer privately with the individual but cannot act as a speaking advocate. The RCA may request to meet with either party or any other person(s) the RCA considers appropriate before making a final determination.

After conducting any such meetings and considering the investigators' report, any supplements to the report, and any additional relevant information, the RCA will issue a determination as to whether a violation of Policy 311-A (or a violation of other VSC policies, if applicable) occurred. The determination will be based on the preponderance of the evidence standard.

(2) Disciplinary Action

If the RCA determines that a student has engaged in conduct that violates this policy (or other VSC policies, if applicable), the RCA shall impose disciplinary sanctions on the student. The RCA shall consider what sanctions are: (1) fair and appropriate given the facts of the particular case, including whether the respondent has accepted responsibility for his or her actions; (2) consistent with the sanctions imposed in similar cases; and (3) adequate to protect the safety of the complainant and the VSC community.

Possible disciplinary sanctions include verbal and written warnings, written reprimands, education, counseling, loss of privileges, probationary status, removal from College housing, suspension, dismissal/expulsion, revocation of degree, and/or withholding of transcript or other action determined to be appropriate under the circumstances. The sanctions of probation, removal from College housing, and suspension will be for a particular period of time, ranging from a number of days to a number of semesters, as determined on a case-by-case basis.

Regardless of the finding, other non-disciplinary action may be taken as appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to room changes, class changes,

building restrictions, extracurricular activity restrictions, modification of no contact orders, and other actions to preserve the right of the complainant to a safe environment.

To the extent permitted by law, the complainant and respondent will be notified, simultaneously and in writing, of: (1) the RCA's determination; (2) the disciplinary sanctions, if any, to be imposed; and (3) the VSC's procedures for complainants and respondents to appeal the determination and disciplinary sanctions. The notification will include the rationale for the determination and for any sanctions. A copy of the RCA's determination shall be sent to the Title IX Coordinator and to VSC's general counsel.

(3) Time-frame

Absent extenuating circumstances, the RCA will endeavor to issue a determination as to whether a violation of VSC's policies has occurred and the imposition of any sanctions (or other action) within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the investigators' report, obtaining additional information, or meeting with the parties, whichever is later. This period may be extended, with written notification to the parties, if the RCA determines that further information or investigation is needed.

(B) Employee Respondents

(1) Determination

The RCA is not bound by the investigators' report and may accept or reject the investigators' recommended conclusion in whole or in part, or may request additional relevant information before making a final determination.

Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the investigators' report or any additional relevant information, whichever is later, the RCA shall notify the complainant and respondent, simultaneously and in writing, of the RCA's initial determination as to whether a violation of Policy 311-A (or a violation of any other policy, agreement or handbook, if applicable) occurred and shall outline the discipline, if any, being contemplated, to the extent permitted by law. The determination will be based on whether the RCA finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the respondent violated Policy 311-A (or other applicable VSC policies). The RCA shall consider what sanctions are: (1) fair and appropriate given the facts of the particular case, including whether the respondent has accepted responsibility for his or her actions; (2) consistent with the sanctions imposed in similar cases; and (3) adequate to protect the safety of the complainant and the VSC community.

The complainant and respondent may request to meet individually with the RCA, before a final determination is made, and may be accompanied by an advisor of their choosing. If the respondent is an employee who is covered by a collective bargaining agreement, the procedures and mutual obligations of the VSC and the employee regarding disciplinary action delineated in those agreements will apply.

(2) Disciplinary Action

Within seven (7) calendar days of issuing the initial determination or meeting with the parties, whichever is later, the RCA shall notify the complainant and respondent, simultaneously and in writing, of the RCA's final determination as to whether a violation of Policy 311-A (or a violation of any other policy, agreement or handbook, if applicable) occurred and the disciplinary sanction(s) to be imposed, to the extent permitted by law. The RCA shall also notify the complainant and respondent, in writing, as to any right that the parties may have to appeal the determination and disciplinary action, pursuant to the relevant employee collective bargaining agreement or the VSC personnel handbook for those employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. A copy of the RCA's determination shall be sent to the Title IX Coordinator and to VSC's general counsel.

Disciplinary action under existing policies and/or contracts may include verbal warnings, written warnings, written reprimands, probation, suspension, termination of employment, non-renewal of a contract, or other action determined to be appropriate under the circumstances. The sanctions of probation and suspension will be for a particular period of time, ranging from a number of days to a number of semesters, as determined on a case-by-case basis.

Regardless of the finding, other non-disciplinary action may be taken as appropriate under the circumstances, including, but not limited to, extending and modifying no contact orders, room changes, class changes, work schedule changes, building restrictions, and other actions to preserve the rights of the complainant to a safe environment.

(3) Time-frame

Absent extenuating circumstances, the RCA will endeavor to issue a final determination as to whether a violation of the VSC's policies has occurred and the imposition of any discipline (or other action) within the time frame set forth in (1) and (2) above, however this time period may be shorter or longer depending on the circumstances, including any contractual rights of the parties. The parties will be notified if changes are made to the

time-frame. A copy of the RCA's determination shall be sent to the Title IX Coordinator and to VSC's general counsel.

IX. APPEAL

(A) Student Respondents

In cases where the respondent is a student, both the complainant and respondent have the right to appeal the outcome on the following grounds: (1) procedural error where the error prevented fundamental fairness; (2) the discovery of previously unavailable evidence that could significantly impact the outcome of the case; (3) the determination is arbitrary and capricious; or (4) the sanction is substantially disproportionate to the findings.

Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the final determination and notification of any discipline or sanctions to be imposed, the parties may appeal to the President of the College (or the President's designee) by delivering a written statement of appeal to the President and to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the other party of the appeal and the other party will be given seven (7) calendar days in which to submit a written response to the appeal to the President (or the President's designee), with a copy to the Title IX Coordinator. Both parties will be informed simultaneously and in writing, of (1) any change to the discipline and/or sanctions imposed while the appeal is pending, and (2) the final decision, to the extent permitted by law. The decision of the President (or the President's designee) is final. A copy of the President's decision shall be sent to the Title IX Coordinator and to VSC's general counsel.

(B) Employee Respondents

In cases where the respondent is an employee, the right to appeal shall be governed by the relevant employee collective bargaining agreement or the VSC personnel handbook for those employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Both parties will be informed simultaneously and in writing, of (1) any change to the discipline and/or sanctions imposed while the appeal is pending, and (2) the final decision, to the extent permitted by law. A copy of the decision shall be sent to the Title IX Coordinator and to VSC's general counsel.

X. NOTICES

For purposes of this policy, written notifications to the parties and written responses from the parties may be hand-delivered, mailed, and/or sent to or from the parties' official VSC e-mail addresses and/or other e-mail addresses if known to the VSC. The same method of communication will be used where practicable for both the complainant and the respondent.

XI. RECORD-KEEPING

The Title IX Coordinator and designated College officials will treat reports of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and related complaints, investigative reports, and final determinations as confidential, to the extent allowed by law. The Title IX Coordinator will track these reports for statistical and reporting purposes.

XII. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The VSC will provide educational programming for students and employees addressing the issues of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, which will include: (1) primary prevention and awareness programs for incoming students and new employees; (2) safe and positive options for bystander intervention; (3) information on risk reduction to recognize warning signs of abusive behavior; and (4) ongoing prevention and awareness programs for students and employees. The VSC shall take the following steps:

- Include VSC Policy 311-A: *Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking* and its implementing procedures on the VSC's Policies and Procedures page of its website (<http://www.vsc.edu/about-vsc/Pages/Policies-and-Procedures.aspx>) and on the websites of member Colleges;
- Include links to Policy 311-A and its implementing procedures in appropriate publications provided to students and employees;
- Provide educational materials on sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and bystander intervention;
- Identify those individuals responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of prevention and awareness programs;
- Develop primary and ongoing prevention and awareness programs for students and employees;
- Select and train Title IX Coordinators;
- Select and train designated contact persons;
- Select and train investigators annually regarding the issues related to sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and how to conduct investigations that are prompt, fair, and impartial; and

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- Train Responsible College Administrators annually and any others responsible for adjudicating complaints and considering appeals regarding the issues related to sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and how to conduct an adjudication process that is prompt, fair, and impartial.

The member Colleges and the Office of the Chancellor shall continue to support, monitor and revise the educational prevention and awareness programs and informational materials as they work toward the goals of eliminating sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and of enhancing mutual trust and respect.

XIII. OTHER REMEDIES

Individuals who believe that their rights under Title IX have been violated may file a claim with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights:

Regional Office

Office for Civil Rights
8th Floor
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109-3921

Telephone: 617-289-0111
FAX: 617-289-0150
TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR.Boston@ed.gov

National Headquarters

Office for Civil Rights
Lyndon Baines Johnson Dep't of Education Bldg
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100

Telephone: 800-421-3481
FAX: 202-453-6012
TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR@ed.gov

Revised effective August 9, 2016.

**Appendix A to Chancellor's Procedures for Implementation of Policy 311-A:
Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking**

TITLE IX COORDINATORS

Office of the Chancellor:	Nancy Shaw, Director of Human Resources 575 Stone Cutters Way, Montpelier, VT 05602 Nancy.Shaw@vsc.edu (802) 224-3011
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Vermont Technical College:	Mary Kathryn Juskiewicz, Director of Residence Life Room 122B, Office of Student Affairs 124 Admin Drive, Randolph Center, VT 05061 MJuskiew@vtc.vsc.edu (802) 728-1673

Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX and other laws, regulations and policies prohibiting discrimination may also be directed to the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at 5 Post Office Square, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109-3921; Tel: (617) 289-0111; Fax: (617) 289-0150; Email: OCR.Boston@ed.gov

**Appendix B to Chancellor’s Procedures for Implementation of Policy 311-A:
Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking**

**DEFINITIONS OF CONSENT, DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING UNDER VERMONT LAW**

Dating and Domestic Violence

15 V.S.A. § 1101. Definitions

“The following words as used in this chapter shall have the following meanings: . . .

(2) ‘Household members’ means persons who, for any period of time, are living or have lived together, are sharing or have shared occupancy of a dwelling, are engaged in or have engaged in a sexual relationship, or minors or adults who are dating or who have dated. "Dating" means a social relationship of a romantic nature. Factors that the court may consider when determining whether a dating relationship exists or existed include:

- (A) the nature of the relationship;
- (B) the length of time the relationship has existed;
- (C) the frequency of interaction between the parties;
- (D) the length of time since the relationship was terminated, if applicable.”

13 V.S.A. § 1041. Definition

“As used in this subchapter, ‘family or household members’ means persons who are eligible for relief from abuse under chapter 21 of Title 15.”

13 V.S.A. § 1042. Domestic assault

“Any person who attempts to cause or wilfully or recklessly causes bodily injury to a family or household member, or wilfully causes a family or household member to fear imminent serious bodily injury shall be imprisoned not more than 18 months or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.”

13 V.S.A. § 1043. First degree aggravated domestic assault

“(a) A person commits the crime of first degree aggravated domestic assault if the person:

- (1) attempts to cause or wilfully or recklessly causes serious bodily injury to a family or household member; or
- (2) uses, attempts to use or is armed with a deadly weapon and threatens to use the deadly weapon on a family or household member; or
- (3) commits the crime of domestic assault and has been previously convicted of aggravated domestic assault.”

13 V.S.A. § 1044. Second degree aggravated domestic assault

“(a) A person commits the crime of second degree aggravated domestic assault if the person:

- (1) commits the crime of domestic assault and such conduct violates:
 - (A) specific conditions of a criminal court order in effect at the time of the offense imposed to protect that other person;
 - (B) a final abuse prevention order issued under 15 V.S.A. § 1103 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction;
 - (C) a final order against stalking or sexual assault issued under 12 V.S.A. § 5133 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction; or
 - (D) a final order against abuse of a vulnerable adult issued under 33 V.S.A. § 6935 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction.
- (2) commits the crime of domestic assault; and
 - (A) has a prior conviction within the last 10 years for violating an abuse prevention order issued under section 1030 of this title; or
 - (B) has a prior conviction for domestic assault under section 1042 of this title.”

Consent and Sexual Assault

13 V.S.A. § 3251. Definitions

“As used in this chapter:

(1) A ‘sexual act’ means conduct between persons consisting of contact between the penis and the vulva, the penis and the anus, the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vulva, or any intrusion, however slight, by any part of a person's body or any object into the genital or anal opening of another.

(2) ‘Sexual conduct’ means any conduct or behavior relating to sexual activities of the complaining witness, including but not limited to prior experience of sexual acts, use of contraceptives, living arrangement and mode of living.

(3) ‘Consent’ means words or actions by a person indicating a voluntary agreement to engage in a sexual act.

- (4) 'Serious bodily injury' shall have the same meaning as in subdivision 1021(2) of this title.
- (5) 'Bodily injury' means physical pain, illness or any impairment of physical condition.
- (6) 'Actor' means a person charged with sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault.
- (7) 'Deadly force' means physical force which a person uses with the intent of causing, or which the person knows or should have known would create a substantial risk of causing, death or serious bodily injury.
- (8) 'Deadly weapon' means:
 - (A) any firearm; or
 - (B) any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, whether animate or inanimate, which in the manner it is used or is intended to be used, is known to be capable of producing death or serious bodily injury."

13 V.S.A. § 3252. Sexual assault

“(a) No person shall engage in a sexual act with another person and compel the other person to participate in a sexual act:

- (1) without the consent of the other person; or
 - (2) by threatening or coercing the other person; or
 - (3) by placing the other person in fear that any person will suffer imminent bodily injury.
- (b) No person shall engage in a sexual act with another person and impair substantially the ability of the other person to appraise or control conduct by administering or employing drugs or intoxicants without the knowledge or against the will of the other person.
- (c) No person shall engage in a sexual act with a child who is under the age of 16, except:
 - (1) where the persons are married to each other and the sexual act is consensual; or
 - (2) where the person is less than 19 years old, the child is at least 15 years old, and the sexual act is consensual.
- (d) No person shall engage in a sexual act with a child who is under the age of 18 and is entrusted to the actor's care by authority of law or is the actor's child, grandchild, foster child, adopted child, or stepchild.
- (e) No person shall engage in a sexual act with a child under the age of 16 if:
 - (1) the victim is entrusted to the actor's care by authority of law or is the actor's child, grandchild, foster child, adopted child, or stepchild; or

(2) the actor is at least 18 years of age, resides in the victim's household, and serves in a parental role with respect to the victim.”

13 V.S.A. § 3253. Aggravated sexual assault

“(a) A person commits the crime of aggravated sexual assault if the person commits sexual assault under any one of the following circumstances:

- (1) At the time of the sexual assault, the actor causes serious bodily injury to the victim or to another.
- (2) The actor is joined or assisted by one or more persons in physically restraining, assaulting or sexually assaulting the victim.
- (3) The actor commits the sexual act under circumstances which constitute the crime of kidnapping.
- (4) The actor has previously been convicted in this state of sexual assault under subsection 3252(a) or (b) of this title or aggravated sexual assault or has been convicted in any jurisdiction in the United States or territories of an offense which would constitute sexual assault under subsection 3252(a) or (b) of this title or aggravated sexual assault if committed in this state.
- (5) At the time of the sexual assault, the actor is armed with a deadly weapon and uses or threatens to use the deadly weapon on the victim or on another.
- (6) At the time of the sexual assault, the actor threatens to cause imminent serious bodily injury to the victim or to another and the victim reasonably believes that the actor has the present ability to carry out the threat.
- (7) At the time of the sexual assault, the actor applies deadly force to the victim.
- (8) The victim is under the age of 13 and the actor is at least 18 years of age.
- (9) The victim is subjected by the actor to repeated nonconsensual sexual acts as part of the same occurrence or the victim is subjected to repeated nonconsensual sexual acts as part of the actor's common scheme and plan.”

Stalking

13 V.S.A. § 1061. Definitions

“As used in this subchapter:

- (1) (A) ‘Course of conduct’ means two or more acts over a period of time, however short, in which a person follows, monitors, surveils, threatens, or makes threats about another person, or interferes with another person’s property. This definition shall apply to acts conducted by the person directly or indirectly, and by any action, method, device, or means. Constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of ‘course of conduct.’
(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1), threaten shall not be construed to require an express or overt threat.
- (2) ‘Emotional distress’ means significant mental suffering or distress that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.
- (3) ‘Reasonable person’ means a reasonable person in the victim’s circumstances.

(4) ‘Stalk’ means to engage purposefully in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that the person engaging in the conduct knows or should know would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of another or would cause a reasonable person substantial emotional distress.

13 V.S.A. § 1062. Stalking

“Any person who intentionally stalks another person shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.”

13 V.S.A. § 1063. Aggravated stalking

“(a) A person commits the crime of aggravated stalking if the person intentionally stalks another person, and:

- (1) such conduct violates a court order that prohibits stalking and is in effect at the time of the offense;
- (2) has been previously convicted of stalking or aggravated stalking;
- (3) has been previously convicted of an offense an element of which involves an act of violence against the same person;
- (4) the person being stalked is under 16 years of age; or
- (5) had a deadly weapon, as defined in section 1021 of this title, in his or her possession while engaged in the act of stalking.

(b) A person who commits the crime of aggravated stalking shall be imprisoned not more than five years or be fined not more than \$25,000.00, or both.

(c) Conduct constituting the offense of aggravated stalking shall be considered a violent act for the purposes of determining bail.”

13 V.S.A. § 1064. Defenses

“In a prosecution under this subchapter, it shall not be a defense that the defendant was not provided actual notice that the course of conduct was unwanted.”

Orders against Stalking or Sexual Assault

12 V.S.A. § 5131. Definitions

“As used in this chapter:

- (1) (A) ‘Course of conduct’ means two or more acts over a period of time, however short, in which a person follows, monitors, surveils, threatens, or makes threats about another person, or interferes with another person’s property. This definition shall apply to acts conducted by the person directly or indirectly, and by any action, method, device, or means. Constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of ‘course of conduct.’

(B) As used in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1), threaten shall not be construed to require an express or overt threat.

(2) [Repealed.]

(3) 'Nonphysical contact' includes telephone calls, mail, e-mail, social media commentary or comment, or other electronic communication, fax, and written notes.

(4) 'Reasonable person' means a reasonable person in the victim's circumstances.

(5) 'Sexually assaulted the plaintiff' means that the defendant engaged in conduct that meets elements of lewd and lascivious conduct as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2601, lewd and lascivious conduct with a child as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2602, sexual assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3252, aggravated sexual assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3253, use of a child in a sexual performance as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2822, or consenting to a sexual performance as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2823 and that the plaintiff was the victim of the offense.

(6) 'Stalk' means to engage purposefully in a course of conduct that the person engaging in the conduct knows or should know would cause a reasonable person to:

(A) fear for his or her safety or the safety of a family member; or

(B) suffer substantial emotional distress as evidenced by:

(i) a fear of unlawful sexual conduct, unlawful restraint, bodily injury, or death; or

(ii) significant modifications in the person's actions or routines, including moving from an established residence, changes to established daily routes to and from work that cause a serious disruption in the person's life, changes to the person's employment or work schedule, or the loss of a job or time from work.

(7) 'Stay away' means to refrain from knowingly:

(A) initiating or maintaining a physical presence near the plaintiff;

(B) engaging in nonphysical contact with the plaintiff directly or indirectly; or

(C) engaging in nonphysical contact with the plaintiff through third parties who may or may not know of the order.

(8) [Repealed.]”

12 V.S.A. § 5132. Jurisdiction and venue

“(a) The Superior Court shall have jurisdiction over proceedings under this chapter.

(b) Proceedings under this chapter may be commenced in the county in which the plaintiff resides. If the plaintiff has left his or her residence to avoid being stalked or sexually assaulted, the plaintiff shall have the option to bring an action in the county of the previous residence or the county of the new residence.”

12 V.S.A. § 5133. Requests for an Order against Stalking or Sexual Assault

“(a) A person, other than a family or household member as defined in 15 V.S.A. § 1101(2), may seek an order against stalking or sexual assault on behalf of him- or herself or his or her children by filing a complaint under this chapter. A minor 16 years of age or older may file a complaint under this chapter seeking relief on his or her own behalf. The plaintiff shall submit an affidavit in support of the order.

(b) Except as provided in section 5134 of this title, the court shall grant the order only after notice to the defendant and a hearing. The plaintiff shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant stalked or sexually assaulted the plaintiff.

(c) In a hearing under this chapter, neither opinion evidence of nor evidence of the reputation of the plaintiff's sexual conduct shall be admitted. Evidence of prior sexual conduct of the plaintiff shall not be admitted; provided, however, where it bears on the credibility of the plaintiff or it is material to a fact at issue and its probative value outweighs its private character, the court may admit any of the following:

- (1) evidence of the plaintiff's past sexual conduct with the defendant;
- (2) evidence of specific instances of the plaintiff's sexual conduct showing the source of origin of semen, pregnancy, or disease; or
- (3) evidence of specific instances of the plaintiff's past false allegations of violations of 13 V.S.A. chapter 59 or 72.

(d) If the court finds by a preponderance of evidence that the defendant has stalked or sexually assaulted the plaintiff, or has been convicted of stalking or sexually assaulting the plaintiff, the court shall order the defendant to stay away from the plaintiff or the plaintiff's children, or both, and may make any other order it deems necessary to protect the plaintiff or the plaintiff's children, or both.

(e) Relief shall be granted for a fixed period, at the expiration of which time the court may extend any order, upon motion of the plaintiff, for such additional time as it deems necessary to protect the plaintiff or the plaintiff's children, or both. It is not necessary for the court to find that the defendant stalked or sexually assaulted the plaintiff during the pendency of the order to extend the terms of the order. The court may modify its order at any subsequent time upon motion by either party and a showing of a substantial change in circumstance.

(f) No filing fee shall be required.

(g) Every order under this chapter shall contain the name of the court, the names of the parties, the date of the petition, and the date and time of the order and shall be signed by the judge.

(h) Form complaints and form orders for an 'Order Against Stalking or Sexual Assault' shall be provided by the Court Administrator and shall be maintained by the clerks of the courts.

(i) When findings are required under this section, the court shall make either written findings of fact or oral findings of fact on the record.

(j) Every final order issued under this section shall bear the following language: 'VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AND MAY ALSO BE PROSECUTED AS CRIMINAL CONTEMPT PUNISHABLE BY FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.'

(k) Affidavit forms required pursuant to this section shall bear the following language: 'MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS IN THIS AFFIDAVIT IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AS PROVIDED BY 13 V.S.A. § 2904.'

(l) A finding by the court pursuant to this chapter that the defendant stalked or sexually assaulted the plaintiff shall not be admissible in any subsequent civil proceedings for the purpose of establishing liability."

12 V.S.A. § 5134. Emergency relief

"(a) In accordance with the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure, a person other than a family or household member as defined in 15 V.S.A. § 1001(2) may file a complaint for a temporary order against stalking or sexual assault. Such complaint shall be filed during regular court hours. The plaintiff shall submit an affidavit in support of the order. The court may issue a temporary order under this chapter ex parte, without notice to the defendant, upon motion and findings by the court that the defendant has stalked or sexually assaulted the plaintiff. The court may order the defendant to stay away from the plaintiff or the plaintiff's children, or both, and may make any other such order it deems necessary to protect the plaintiff or the plaintiff's children, or both.

(b) Every order issued under this section shall contain the name of the court, the names of the parties, the date of the petition, and the date and time of the order and shall be signed by the judge. Every order issued under this section shall state upon its face a date, time, and place that the defendant may appear to petition the court for modification or discharge of the order. This opportunity to contest shall be scheduled as soon as reasonably possible, which in no event shall be more than 10 days from the date of issuance of the order. At such hearings, the plaintiff shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant stalked or sexually assaulted the plaintiff. If the court finds that the plaintiff has met his or her burden, it shall continue the order in effect and make such other orders as it deems necessary to protect the plaintiff or the plaintiff's children, or both.

(c) Form complaints and form orders shall be provided by the Court Administrator and shall be maintained by the clerks of the courts.

(d) Every order issued under this chapter shall bear the following language: 'VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AND MAY ALSO BE PROSECUTED AS CRIMINAL CONTEMPT PUNISHABLE BY FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.'

(e) Affidavit forms required pursuant to this section shall bear the following language: 'MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS IN THIS AFFIDAVIT IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AS PROVIDED BY 13 V.S.A. § 2904.'

**Appendix C to Chancellor’s Procedures for Implementation of Policy 311-A:
Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking**

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR VERMONT’S SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNITS

<p align="center"><u>Addison County</u> Addison County Unit for Special Investigations Fred Saar, Executive Director 35 Court Street Middlebury, VT 05753 802-274-5724 Fred.saar@partner.vermont.gov</p>	<p align="center"><u>Bennington County</u> Bennington County Child Advocacy Center/SIU Joy Kitchell, Executive Dir. P.O. Box 163, 129 Elm Street Bennington VT 05201 (802) 442-5107 Joy.Kitchell@partner.vermont.gov</p>	<p align="center"><u>Caledonia & Southern Essex</u> Caledonia Children’s Advocacy Center Fred Saar, Executive Director PO Box 272 Saint Johnsbury, VT 05819 (802) 274-5724 fred.saar@partner.vermont.gov</p>
<p align="center"><u>Chittenden County</u> Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI) Veronica Rathgeb, Exec. Dir. 50 Cherry Street, Suite 102 Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 652-0991 vrathgeb@bpdvt.org</p>	<p align="center"><u>Franklin & Grand Isle</u> Northwest Unit for Special Investigations NUSI/CAC Robert White, Executive Dir. 5 Lemnah Drive St. Albans, VT 05478 (802) 524-7961 Robert.White@vermont.gov</p>	<p align="center"><u>Lamoille County</u> Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit Karen Garbarino, Exec. Dir. P.O. Box 16 Hyde Park, VT 05655 (802)-888-0509 Karen.garbarino@partner.vermont.gov</p>
<p align="center"><u>Orange County</u> Orange County SIU/CAC Monique Braman, Exec. Dir. 354 VT Route 110 PO Box 254 Chelsea, VT 05038 (802) 685-4712 mbraman@orangecountyvt.gov</p>	<p align="center"><u>Orleans and Northern Essex</u> Orleans Co. Child Advocacy Center Joe Malgeri, Executive Director PO Box 308 Newport, VT 05855 (802) 334-6002 (802) 225-8357 joseph.malgeri@partner.vermont.gov</p>	<p align="center"><u>Rutland County</u> Child First Advocacy Center/ Rutland Office for Sp. Inv. Wendy Loomis, Executive Dir. 80 West Street, P.O. Box 6822 Rutland, VT 05702 (802) 747-0200 wendy@childfirstadvocacycenter.org wendy.loomis@partner.vermont.gov</p>
<p align="center"><u>Washington County</u> OUR House of Central Vermont, Inc. CAC/SIU Rebecca Duranleau, Exec. Dir. 38 Summer Street Barre, Vermont 05641 (802) 476-8825 ourhousebarredirector@gmail.com</p>	<p align="center"><u>Windham County</u> Windham County Safe Place CAC/ SUSI Alyssa Todd, Executive Director 112 Hardwood Way Brattleboro, VT 05301 (802) 579-1358 Alyssa.todd@partner.vermont.gov</p>	<p align="center"><u>Windsor County</u> The CACs of the Family Place/ Windsor County SIU Julie Gaudette, Director 319 US Route 5, South Norwich, VT 05055 (802) 295-3882 julieg@the-family-place.org Julie.gaudette@partner.vermont.gov</p>